

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for completing an e-mail transmission, comprising:

5       receiving a user input indicating that an e-mail message  
has been completed;

          parsing said e-mail message for clues indicating that an  
attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended;

          determining whether or not said attachment has been  
10       attached to said message; and

          in response to determining that said attachment has not  
been attached to said e-mail message, generating a user prompt  
to indicate to a user that an attachment to said e-mail message  
is likely intended.

15       2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said user input indicating  
that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input  
instructing an e-mail program to send said e-mail message.

20       3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said user input indicating  
that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input  
instructing an e-mail program to save said e-mail message.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said clues comprise keywords and wherein said method further comprises collecting keywords from user input to create a set of keywords, and wherein said parsing is performed by matching members of said set of keywords with words within said e-mail message.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said clues comprise file names, wherein said parsing detects file names within said e-mail message, and wherein said user prompt is generated to include a query asking said user whether or not a file specified by said file name should be attached to said e-mail message.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said clues comprise phrases and wherein said parsing further includes decomposing sentences within said e-mail message to detect phrases indicating that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said clues comprise phrases and wherein said method further comprises collecting key phrases from user input to create a set of key phrases, and wherein said parsing is performed by matching members of said set of key phrases with sentences within said e-mail message.

8. A system for completing an e-mail transmission, comprising:

a memory for storing program instructions and data;

a processor coupled to said memory for executing said program instructions; and

5 a user input device coupled to said processor for receiving user input, wherein said program instructions include instructions for

receiving a user input indicating that an e-mail message has been completed,

10 parsing said e-mail message for clues indicating that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended,

determining whether or not said attachment has been attached to said message, and

15 in response to determining that said attachment has not been attached to said e-mail message, generating a user prompt to indicate to a user that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein said user input indicating that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input instructing an e-mail program to send said e-mail message.

5 10. The system of Claim 8, wherein said user input indicating that said e-mail message has been completed is a user input instructing an e-mail program to save said e-mail message.

11. The system of Claim 8, wherein said clues comprise  
10 keywords, wherein said program instructions further comprise instructions for collecting keywords from user input to create a set of keywords, and wherein said program instructions for parsing match members of said set of keywords with words within said e-mail message.

15 12. The system of Claim 8, wherein said clues comprise file names, wherein said program instructions for parsing detect file names within said e-mail message, and wherein said program instructions for generating a user prompt generate a query  
20 asking said user whether or not a file specified by said file name should be attached to said e-mail message.

13. The system of Claim 8, wherein said clues comprise phrases,  
and wherein said program instructions for parsing further  
include program instructions for decomposing sentences within  
said e-mail message to detect phrases indicating that an  
5 attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said clues comprise phrases,  
and wherein said system further comprises program instructions  
for collecting key phrases from user input to generate a set of  
10 key phrases and wherein said program instructions for parsing  
match members of said set of key phrases with sentences within  
said e-mail message.

15. A computer program product comprising signal-bearing media containing program instructions for execution within a general purpose computer, wherein said program instructions comprise program instructions for:

5       receiving a user input indicating that an e-mail message has been completed,

          parsing said e-mail message for clues indicating that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended,

          determining whether or not said attachment has been  
10       attached to said message, and

          in response to determining that said attachment has not been attached to said e-mail message, generating a user prompt to indicate to a user that an attachment to said e-mail message is likely intended.



20. The computer program product of Claim 15, wherein said clues  
comprise phrases, and further comprising program instructions  
for collecting key phrases from user input to generate a set of  
key phrases and wherein said program instructions for parsing  
5 match members of said set of key phrases with sentences within  
said e-mail message.